

The Frankenmuth Fire Department was organized in 1904. Martin Eischer was named the fire chief, and he held the post until his retirement in 1937. The department at the time of establishment had an appointed staff of 19 men, a \$750 steam powered and horse drawn fire engine, and a \$535 hose and hose cart. Although the department was fully equipped and staffed, it did not acquire a home until 1905 when the Village Hall was constructed. The hall would serve as the home of the fire chief and fire engine. To ensure a reasonable water supply, the village council provided fire cisterns throughout the village. In 1918, they purchased a Waterous Motor Propelled fire engine, which would be considered as the forerunner of the modern fire engine. The department retained the original horse-drawn engine, and relocated it to a garage across the river. The department assigned a crew of men to the garage to provide fire protection during floods, when normal access across the river was blocked.

In 1937, the department appointed a new chief, Herman "Whitey" Eischer; son of retired Chief Martin Eischer. He held the post until resigning in 1947, and Waldemar Veitengruber was appointed. During Chief Herman Eischer's tenure, which was during the onset of World War II, 22 volunteers were added to the roster, the department purchased a 1942 Ford engine, and a Civil Defense team was organized. In the late 1940s, the department received its first gas mask, and in 1979 the Frankenmuth Women's Club donated money to purchase the "Jaws of Life." In 1976 George Reinert was appointed fire chief, after the sudden death of Chief Veitengruber. He served 10 years and was succeeded by Gene Rittmueller. Chief Rittmueller resigned in 1997 and was replaced by the current chief, David Wright.

Aside from work and training, the department is also a community group. They have sponsored several community and station events, including the annual community picnic, fireman's ball, Christmas party, and in the last few years they have sponsored the fire muster. This year over 200 participants are expected. Currently, the department roster for 2004 lists 30 volunteers, including the chief, two assistants and three captains. The department with its skilled crew has handled each emergency over the years with great attention to detail and duty. In the wake of September 11th, the American public has come to better understand and acknowledge the heroic commitment and responsibility that is charged to our nation's fire departments. We are all indebted to you for protecting our community each day.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me paying tribute to the Frankenmuth Fire Department for 100 years of service to the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 2, I was unavoidably detained and

unable to vote on rollcall votes 213, 214, and 215. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 213, "aye" on rollcall 214, and "aye" on rollcall 215.

FALLEN HEROES

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the men and women who sacrifice their lives every day in support of our nation as members of the armed services, both in times of peace and war. In the two and a half years since our nation was attacked, the service of America's armed services has been priceless—both in helping defend America at home and serving abroad. We should be thankful and grateful to all service members.

This Memorial Day marks the dedication of the World War II memorial in Washington, DC, the 60th anniversary of the D-Day Invasion at Normandy, and the 60th anniversary of the passage of the GI Bill of Rights. We recall with love and gratitude the 16.1 million that served in World War II and remember the 292,000 service members killed in action. Today our government provides care and services to the hundreds of thousands of disabled veterans of World War II.

While today we reflect on our veterans that have fought and our troops that serve, we must also commit ourselves to ensuring better lives for these people and their families. I will continue to fight to protect and honor our troops and their families. We must guarantee health care, adequate burial and bereavement services, support services for military families, and financial security to those who serve this nation.

As we take time this Memorial Day to remember our service men and women, I am sad to add the names of six fallen heroes from my community to those whose lives we celebrate and deaths we mourn. Marine Corporal Jorge A. Gonzalez, Army Sergeant Atanasio Haro Marin, Army Private First Class Jose Casanova, Marine Private First Class Francisco A. Martinez Flores, Army Specialist Leroy Harris-Kelly III, and Marine Corporal Rudy Salas are among the more than 700 service members that have died fighting in Iraq. Their service to this community and to this nation will not be forgotten.

CONGRATULATING KRISTOPHER TANTILLO ON HIS SELECTION TO REPRESENT FLORIDA AT THE NATIONAL PANASONIC ACADEMIC CHALLENGE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kristopher Tantillo, a high school student who attends Lincoln Park Academy in Port St. Lucie, Florida. Kristopher

was recently selected as one of six students in Florida to represent the State at the National Panasonic Academic Challenge to be held this June.

The 17th annual Panasonic Academic Challenge is a "quiz-bowl"-type tournament in which teams of our nation's top students test their knowledge with difficult questions in mathematics, science, English, social studies, fine arts, foreign language, and computer science. This Academic Challenge, started years ago as a small local effort, has now blossomed into one of the premier high school academic tournaments in the United States, involving thousands of students from every state and U.S. territory.

Kristopher Tantillo exemplifies exceptional academic skills and scholarship, and I hope that he will continue to dedicate himself to further study and academic opportunities. Once again, I offer my congratulations to Kristopher on this noble achievement and wish the best of luck to him in all of his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JAMES A. SWANSON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend James A. Swanson, Supervising Biologist for the Central Coast region of Department of Fish and Game, who is being honored on the occasion of his retirement after over 30 years.

A native of California, Jim Swanson grew up in Pasadena and received his Bachelors Degree in Wildlife Management from Humboldt State University. He began his outstanding career in the Department of Fish and Game as a Fish and Wildlife seasonal aide in California in 1969.

In 1975, Jim became a Junior Wildlife Manager-Biologist in the Central Coast Region. From 1977-78 he was the Project Manager coordinating the San Francisco Bay Study. He then returned to work as an Assistant Wildlife Manager-Biologist and went on to work as an Associate Wildlife Biologist. In 2001, he assumed the duties of Supervising Biologist for the Central Coast Region.

As Supervising Biologist for the Central Coast Region he served many counties including: Alameda, Contra Costa, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, Santa Cruz, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Sonoma, and part of Solano. He helped to acquire over 14,000 acres for the Napa-Sonoma Marshes State Wildlife Area and was instrumental in the restoration of that habitat.

Mr. Swanson and his wife, Kathey, have two daughters, Renee and Jamie as well as three grandchildren. Jim is an avid fisherman and bird watcher.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize James A. Swanson for his contributions to the preservation of the natural resources of our nation. He will be missed and we extend our best wishes to him in his retirement.